REPORTS ANALYSIS DIVISION REFERRAL

TO

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

DATE:

April 17, 2015

ANALYST:

Quy Vuong

I. COMMITTEE:

Democrats Win Seats (DWS PAC)

C00425470

Vickie Winpisinger, Treasurer

P.O. Box 83142

Gaithersburg, MD 20883

II. RELEVANT STATUTE:

52 U.S.C. § 30102(b)(1) 11 CFR § 102.8(a) and (c) 11 CFR § 110.6(c)(1)(iii)

III. BACKGROUND:

Failure to Forward Earmarked Contributions within the Permissible Time Period

The Democrats Win Seats (DWS PAC) ("the Committee) forwarded \$177,000 undeposited earmarked contributions received for authorized committees more than ten (10) days after receipt. The undeposited earmarked contributions were reported on the Committee's 2014 May Monthly and June Monthly Reports (Attachment 2).

On May 20, 2014, the Committee filed the 2014 May Monthly Report covering the period from April 1, 2014 through April 30, 2014. The report disclosed two hundred and sixty-one (261) undeposited earmarked contributions totaling \$179,000 to authorized committees on Schedule A supporting Line 11(a)(i) (Contributions from Individuals/Persons Other Than Political Committees) and Line 11(c) (Contributions From Other Political Committees) (Images 14941245825-918).

On June 20, 2014, the Committee filed the 2014 June Monthly Report covering the period from May 1, 2014 through May 31, 2014. The report disclosed two hundred and seventy-eight (278) undeposited earmarked contributions totaling \$313,200 forwarded to authorized

committees on Schedule B supporting Line 23 (Contributions to Federal Candidates/Committees and Other Political Committees). Of the undeposited earmarked contributions forwarded, two hundred and sixty (260) totaling \$177,000 were disclosed with forwarding dates more than ten (10) days after receipt (Images 14941622700-793).

On August 10, 2014, a Request for Additional Information (RFAI) was sent to the Committee referencing the 2014 June Monthly Report. The RFAI noted that the Committee disclosed the apparent disbursement of earmarked contributions outside the permissible time period. Additionally, the RFAI stated that as a conduit or intermediary for an authorized committee, the Committee must forward any earmarked contribution, along with a transmittal report, no later than ten (10) days after receiving the earmarked contribution (Image 14330059219).

On August 15, 2014, the Committee filed an Amended 2014 May Monthly Report. The total number and amount of undeposited earmarked receipts remained unchanged from the original 2014 May Monthly Report (Images 14970085945-6038).

On September 15, 2014, the Committee filed a Miscellaneous Electronic Submission ("Form 99") in response to the RFAI. The Form 99 stated, in part:

"During the period covered by the May Monthly Report, the Committee received contributions earmarked for other committees. Lack of prior experience and familiarity with the specific disbursement requirement caused the contributions referenced by your letter, in an isolated occurrence, to be forwarded during the subsequent reporting period and hence itemized on the June Monthly Report. After identifying these circumstances on its own, but before receiving your letter, the Committee instructed relevant staff and consultants on the requirement to ensure the timeliness of future disbursements" (Image 14970774767).

On October 9, 2014, the Reports Analysis Division (RAD) Analyst called Vickie Winpisinger, the Committee's Treasurer, to inform her that the Committee may be referred to another office at the Commission for further action regarding the amount of the undeposited earmarks forwarded outside the permissible time period. The Analyst explained that the Committee has the opportunity to provide additional clarification for the public record. Ms. Winpisinger asked which office would be handling the matter to which the Analyst informed her that the appropriate office would contact her accordingly (Attachment 3).

To date, no further communication has been received from the Committee regarding this matter.

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